

the chronicle

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SCHOOL**
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Book signing Boycie meets fans



Fay Rowley, left, from Netherton and Michelle Manley from Kidderminster meet John Challis

Only Fools and Horses star John Challis was in Dudley signing copies of his autobiography.

Challis, known to millions as Boycie from the popular sitcom, met fans at the Merry Hill Shopping Centre where he signed copies of Being Boycie.

The book tells the story of Challis's long career in television, which included many minor television roles before he got his big break playing Boycie from 1981 onwards.

The success of the character produced a spin-off show, The Green Green Grass, which ran for four series between 2005 and 2009. More than 100 fans met Challis at Waterstones in Merry Hill last week and demand was so high the shop ran out of copies before the end of the event.



Karac Nelson, left, and Eleanor Hawthorne, both of Brierley Hill with Boycie

Extra bin bags over the Christmas period

Residents in Dudley will be able to put out an extra two bin bags for collection over Christmas.

A controversial three-bag limit on collections from each household in Dudley was imposed alongside the issuing of bin bags in bulk in September last year, however, bosses say during the festive season – when households traditionally have more rubbish to get rid of – householders can put out more.

Council chiefs say the Boxing Day bin bag collections will now take place on Christmas Eve instead.

Households will be able to put out up to an extra two bin bags on their collection days between December 24 and January 6. Bags should be put out by 6am and recycling should be by 7.30am. Call 0300 5552345, or dudleycouncilplus@dudley.gov.uk

Man admits killing with single punch

A man has admitted killing a father with a single punch in a Dudley street. The incident in Priory Road happened as the partner and young daughter of the victim looked on, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Delroy Hines critically injured Marcus Hutton after a fracas. Mr Hutton, of Priory Road, died in Russell's Hall Hospital after being placed on a life support machine following the July 9 attack, the court was told on Tuesday.

Hines, aged 36, pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of the 30-year-old and was remanded in custody until December 8 when he will be sentenced.

Judge John Warner asked for reports on the defendant but told him: "It is not whether you will go to prison. The only matter is how long you will go to prison for."

Hines, of Redwood Avenue, Gornal, pleaded guilty on the basis that the victim had approached him while shouting and swearing in an aggressive manner. Hines denied having earlier made a wolf whistle.

Returned

Mr Hugh O'Brien-Quinn, prosecuting, said: "Clearly something got the attention of Mr Hutton because he had his back to the defendant and turned round."

The court heard that Hines also denied asking when he returned to the scene after the blow had been struck to collect his hat. "Is he dead yet?"

Mr O'Brien-Quinn said the prosecution did not accept all the basis of plea and added: "Three people said they heard him say that, but perhaps what was said after the offence is not of vital importance."

Judge John Warner said: "It would have been a gratuitously callous thing to have said but it would not be significant to the sentence, although I am not making a judgment on it yet."

"I do not think there is anything in the basis of plea that would prevent me from sentencing him in a proper way."

Suspect, 49, is charged with kidnapping boy

A man appeared in court today charged with the kidnap and sexual assault of a 10-year-old boy in Oldbury.

Michael Jackson, aged 49, is accused of the kidnap and sexual assault of the child on Sunday. Jackson has also been charged with abducting a second child in an unrelated incident.

The boy was reported missing by a family member at 9.15am on Sunday when he failed to return home. He was spotted two hours later in a flat off Bristnall Hall Road.

Jackson, of Lowry Court, Bristnall Hall Road, appeared at Sandwell Magistrates Court today facing five charges of kidnap, sexual assault, threats to kill, false imprisonment and a further charge of child abduction relating to a separate incident on September 14 in which an 11-year-old girl was allegedly abducted.

The case was committed to Wolverhampton Crown Court on February 8.

Jackson was remanded in custody. A 48-year-old man arrested in connection with the investigation has been released pending further inquiries. A 30-year-old man was released without charge.

Base will be closed to public as part of force cost-cutting measures

POLICE STATION TO SHUT AT NIGHT



Halesowen police station will be shutting to the public at night

Halesowen police station will close to the public at night under new cost-saving measures.

It is one of five in the Black Country and 12 in the West Midlands which will have reduced opening hours.

The move will see the base in Laurel Lane shut between 6pm and 10am each day while stations in Dudley, Stourbridge, Bloxwich and Wednesfield will also close overnight.

West Midlands Police is faced with having to save £126 million over the next four years as it tries to manage Government cuts in funding.

The force has already announced £25m of savings this year, which will lead to the loss of 173 police officer and more than 200 police staff positions.

The report distributed to elected representatives said a recent review of front offices found that public demand is "very low in the evenings and overnight".

It added the force was committed to local policing in communities and that it was in the process of identifying other places for the public to interact with police, such as local shops or libraries.

When offices are closed, a telephone system linking to the force's non-emergency switchboard will be in place.

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Councillor Ken Turner, who represents Hayley Green and Cradley South, said he was not concerned about the proposals as long as people could still get help in emergency.

"There will still be officers on duty in the station 24/7 and in the event of emergency or someone needs urgent attention, they will still be able to get help."

"I do not believe there will be a reduction in the service – it's just a more cost-efficient way of providing the service so people are not being paid to sit behind a desk," he said.

Vowed

But plans have come under fire in other parts of the Dudley borough.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said today that his constituency needed more local policing and not less and vowed to campaign against the changes.

"It is completely unacceptable," said Mr Austin. "The people of Dudley want and need a properly staffed station. I grew up in Dudley and there has been a proper police station there for as long as I can remember."

"I think people will be very concerned about this and I will be opposing it and campaigning against it as well."

Theatre group saying Hi-De-Hi!

A Halesowen theatre group will be saying Hi-De-Hi! to its audience later this month when it brings the the popular 80s TV sitcom to the stage.

For the first time Mayhem Theatre group will perform at the Hardwicke Theatre at Thorns Community College in Quarry Bank and producer Mark Moran promised theatregoers a great night.

The usual Mayhem members will take on the roles of classic characters from the hit show, including Peggy Ollershaw, Ted Bovis, Professor Jeffrey Fairbrother and Gladys Pugh.

Mr Moran said: "Why not forget the depressing state of the economy and the impending winter and slip back in time to the summer of 1959 to enjoy an evening at Maplins holiday camp."

"It's a hilarious show that is sure to warm the cockles of your heart."

Hi-De-Hi! will run from November 23-26, with evening performances taking place at 7.30pm and a Saturday matinee at 2.30pm. Tickets cost £7 for the evening and £6 for the matinee. Call 0121 559 6549 to book or visit Spex Maniax Opticians, 358 Hagley Road, Halesowen.



David Williams, front, and fellow Mayhem Theatre Group members Jo Lane, left, Richard Lisseter and Jo Tranter look forward to performing Hi-De-Hi! at Thorns Community College

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Youngsters nominated for trust awards



Heather Bridgewater and Louis Dickson, who have been nominated for awards

TWO inspirational youngsters will find out next week if they've won royal awards for turning their lives around.

Heather Bridgewater, aged 17, from Cradley Heath and Louis Dickson, 22, from Oldbury, have been nominated in The Prince's Trust and L'Oréal Paris Celebrate Success Awards, to be held at Aston Villa FC on November 22.

The ceremony honours the achievements of disadvantaged young people supported by the trust who have succeeded against the odds. Both Heather and Louis suffered problems with confidence before joining the Prince's Trust.

Heather found school life stressful and struggled with the pressure of exams. After a traumatic event at school Heather's confidence was affected and her self-esteem dropped, so she signed up for a 12-week personal development programme with the Prince's Trust.

Since completing the course Heather has secured a part-time job at McDonald's, learned to drive and is at college.

"The Prince's Trust gave me the skills to get a part-time job and attend college," Heather said. "Now I can work towards becoming a primary school teacher."

"Before I took part, the idea of going to university would have been a major challenge but now it is one that I know I can handle."

Louis has health and speech problems related to medical issues from before he was born and became a victim of bullying at college. He signed up to the Fairbridge programme, part of The Prince's Trust.

On finishing the programme Louis attended workshops to increase his chances of finding work in the music industry and is soon due to start a Gold Arts Award programme towards his dream of starting his own record label.

He said: "I honestly don't know where I'd be right now if I didn't take part in the programme. Visit www.princes-trust.org.uk for more information on the charity."

Bored schoolgirls in £11,000 attack

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TWO schoolgirls caused more than £11,000 of damage to 24 cars during a wrecking spree in Stourbridge, a court heard. The youngsters, aged 12 and 13, scratched the vehicles in Wollaston with a stone because they said they had been "bored", Dudley Youth Court was told.

Magistrates ordered their parents to pay back a total of £2,300 - 20 per cent of the damage - in compensation. The court heard that the girls, who cannot be named due to their age, were seen by a resident just minutes before the damage was discovered in Wood Street.

The cost of repairs went as high as £1,500 for a Jaguar X Type, while other vehicles included a Land Rover Freelander.

Mr Barry Seale, prosecuting, said most of the owners had ended up paying for the repairs themselves.

One of the girls said in court: "We were bored and had nothing to do so we thought it would be funny to scratch some cars. We didn't realise the seriousness of what we were doing."

Magistrate Mr Ken Slater said it would have been "futile" to order the parents to pay the full £11,457 costs as compensation as they would be unable to afford it.

The girls, who admitted 24 charges of criminal damage, were put on a nine-month referral order by magistrates.

After the hearing, Selina Mackie, one of the victims, said it was "frustrating" she had to pay £987 to repair her Land Rover, but would only get 20 per cent back. "I would have liked them to come and meet everyone and say sorry," she said.

Firm shows its metal on heritage trail

A galvanizing company based in the Black Country has played a major role in the creation of a £35,000 heritage trail winding through the Black Country.

Wollaston artist Luke Perry has created 33 sculptures ranging in size from 3ft to 6ft, which run along a four-and-a-half mile stretch of the Dudley No.2 canal from Sandwell to Dudley.

They include one sculpture of a man flushing a toilet, inspired by the former Doulton Pottery Works in Rowley Regis which made cisterns and toilet bowls.

Wedgefield-based Edward Howell Galvanizers, part of Wedge Group Galvanizing, galvanized more than five tonnes of steel for the sculptures in a process that will protect them from rust and corrosion. They were installed over the summer as part of the project which was paid for via lottery funding given to the Dudley Canal Trust.

Mr Perry, aged 28, said: "This project is a real celebration of the Black Country, and was extremely exciting to be involved in."

"It is, in effect, a 'walking museum', depicting key moments in the area's industrial heritage."

As each sculpture is completely bespoke, designing them has involved countless conversations with veterans of the industry and area, to enable us to have first-hand accounts of the people, characteristics, events, and themes that they are based on. The finished sculptures look great along the towpath, and will enlighten generations of people on what was once the main artery of the area's industry - without the canal, there would be no Black Country."



One of the steel sculptures on the heritage trail

Jim Lindsay, commercial manager of Edward Howell Galvanizers, said: "The completed sculptures are lively, attractive, and interesting, and will be a fantastic educational source for the area." He said the galvanizing process each sculpture had gone through meant people could enjoy them for years to come.

Starting at Station Road in Old Hill and running to Blowers Green Bridge in Netherton, the trail also features 50-life-sized moorhens, which have also been sculpted out of steel.

Killer car youths avoid a jail term

Two teenage burglars who were in a getaway car which caused the death of a man when it crashed into his vehicle in Oldbury, have escaped a custodial sentence.

Wedding planner Tauseef Shaukat, aged 24, of Mallin Street, Smethwick died in Sandwell Hospital on June 13 after his Fiat Punto was hit by the high performance car in Churchbridge.

Sandwell Youth Court heard the 17-year-olds were passengers in the Subaru driven by Robert Maxfield, aged 33. Minutes before the crash they had burgled the Co-op store in Tame Road.

Mr Kulbir Paul, prosecuting, said: "The car was purchased in a false name. The driver was Robert Maxfield and the car was a high performance Subaru Impreza."

"When they had arrived at the shop the shutter was down. The defendants were seen armed with crowbars, screwdrivers and similar equipment."

Mr Paul said: "Maxfield drove through a red light and collided with another motorist, unfortunately killing him and seriously injuring the two passengers."

The teenagers admitted burglary at a previous hearing. Chairman of the bench, Mr John Williams, gave each a 12-month intensive referral order, an alternate sentence to custody.

A request by the press to lift the identification ban on naming the youths, both of Smethwick, was refused by the bench. Maxfield, of Ernest Road, Dudley, was jailed in September for four and a half years.

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Shops caught in trap for sales to under 18s

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More than 70 "test purchases" which saw youngsters sent into shops across Dudley to try to buy alcohol have been carried out over the last year.

Details of Trading Standards operations to crack down on premises selling alcoholic drinks to those under the age of 18 have been revealed in a Dudley Council report. It shows that out of a total of 74 test purchases made by child volunteers during 2010/2011, six sales were carried out – that is up from three in 2009/2010 and five in 2008/2009.

The test sales are carried out in partnership with West Midlands Police who are able to issue £80 fixed penalty notices for the sale of alcohol to under 18s.

All six individuals caught selling alcohol to those under age were dished out a fine.

The trading standards service also has the power under the Licensing Act to call for a review of an existing licence on the grounds of protecting children from harm.

Imposed

Two premises where alcohol was sold to persons under the age of 18 were taken to review last year, which led to conditions being imposed on both shops' licences.

These required them to undertake formal staff training, enhance their CCTV systems and put mechanisms in place to prevent under age sales of alcohol in future.

One additional shop voluntarily agreed to the same licence conditions following negotiations with Trading Standards.

The report states: "Premises are targeted for test purchases due to intelligence received from partner agencies such as West Midlands Police and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs as well as complaints from councillors, members of the public and concerned parents."

Premises in areas with higher than average tobacco and alcohol use among under 18s are also targeted.

The report, which has been prepared for the environment scrutiny committee, also reveals that more than 1,400 citizen card proof-of-age cards have been issued to students in schools, colleges and further education establishments within the borough.

School's international award



Celebrating being handed an International School Award are, at back, Jessica Ndala, aged eight, Kyle Spicer, eight, and Jordan Harris, nine. At front are Cody Smithy-Sagoo, eight, languages co-ordinator Monika Share and Lucy Smith, eight

Children at a Black Country primary school are celebrating being recognised as an "international school".

Around 450 pupils at Wrens Nest Primary School in Dudley have taken part in activities designed to give them a greater understanding of the world around them.

The award from the British Council recognises the school's activities and lessons in worldwide culture and issues. Wrens Nest Primary is one of only five schools

in the Dudley borough to achieve the award this year.

Headteacher Ruth Wylie said: "We are very proud. Helping our children to understand the wider society is a key priority for Wrens Nest and is proving to be a thoroughly enjoyable experience for all."

Monika Share, languages co-ordinator at the school, said: "The children have found it fascinating learning about the lives of children at our partner school in Germany through writing letters and email."

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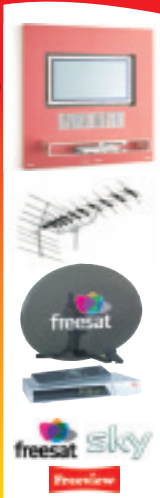
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Clubs set to act over fake ID

Young people using a fake or borrowed ID to get their hands on booze at Kidderminster pubs and clubs face a crackdown by bar owners.

Instead of just asking the youngsters to leave, staff have been told to seize any ID card which does not belong to the person producing it and either keep it for the rightful owner to collect or hand it over to police. And there has been a new warning that using someone else's ID is a criminal offence under the Identity Act.

Chairman of the Kidderminster Licensing Association, and owner of Carters Bar in Vicar Street Mark Carter, said the problem of children

borrowing their older brother or sister's ID had overtaken that of fake ID bought from the internet.

"We tend to have more of a problem with young people borrowing older brothers' or sisters ID, as siblings often look very similar," he said.

"Where young people have been found to be using someone else's ID we will ask the rightful owner to come in to collect it - and will only hand it over after we have pointed out to them the irresponsibility of their actions."

Since changes to the law last year, the only accepted proof of identity is a hologram photograph, preferably a driving licence or passport.

Test purchases are carried out by the council's trading standards department and, if they are found selling alcohol to people who are underage, licensees could be fined, have their licence reviewed or even prosecuted.

Insp Paul Crowley, district commander for Wyre Forest, said using someone else's ID was illegal, and both the ID owner and the person using it were committing an offence.

He said: "Underage drinking is an issue both nationally and locally. We are working to raise awareness about the need for appropriate ID and we will deal with those who misuse it in a robust manner."

Dedicated staff given top awards

Two Dudley Council workers are jumping for joy after winning awards for their dedication to sport.

Rachael McKiernan-Doyle from Dudley Council's sport and physical activity team has been named a 'safeguarding star' by the NSPCC child protection in sport unit.

She received her award for her work with Dudley Safeguarding Children Board and the Black Country Be Active Partnership.

Her work has included developing Seal which is an association for sports coaches and providers, who deliver sport and physical activity in Dudley.

Gavin Haynes, Dudley Council's head coach for cricket, has also been awarded the title of coach of the year at the annual Black Country Sport and Physical Activity Awards for his dedication to the sport.

Mr Haynes, an ex-Worcestershire County Cricket Club player, has been coaching youngsters for 15 years.

New centre to help with learning

A new day centre has been set up to help Dudley residents with learning difficulties experience new skills and take part in activities.

Stoneleigh Care Homes has created the centre for people whose previous day centres have closed.

About 25 users of all ages are expected to use the new site, in Stourbridge Road, Brierley Hill.

It will stage a wide range of activities, including arts and crafts, and there will also be events staged in the community.

Work to convert a house into the new centre started in August and was completed at the end of October.

It has a games room and a sensory room.

It will be open to people with learning difficulties who are given an income to choose which services they wish to attend. Upstairs has been converted into an area for respite care.

Spokesman Tim Careless said: "We are delighted with it and are looking forward to welcoming the first people. The centre has been created to the highest quality and there will be plenty for its users to do."



Care manager Tania Nicklin and Tim Careless in the centre's sensory room

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Leisure centres are on the right track

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Council-run leisure centres in a Black Country borough are booming – with the number of members increasing five-fold in the last six years, new figures reveal.

The 3,000 members bring in more than £1.1 million each year to Dudley Council through gyms in Halesowen, Dudley and Stourbridge.

And the authority has ploughed nearly £2 million into new equipment and facilities in recent years, a new report shows. Council bosses say the figures prove that people are using council-run sites rather than chains.

And they say the investment in the gyms has helped attract thousands of new members.

In 2005 all three gyms had a total of 600 members, generating £200,000 per year. The Crystal Leisure Centre in Bell Street, Stourbridge, had more than 36,000 visits to fitness classes in 2010, a rise of 12,000 in two years.

Swimming

And Dudley Leisure Centre in Wellington Road has seen a similar increase to 16,000 visits last year.

But a new report also shows that "casual" swimming at all three centres has dropped over the last year by up to 10,000.

The Crystal site had a new health and fitness suite, reception and soft play area installed in January 2009 at a total cost of £750,000.

And £500,000 has been spent at Halesowen, including £250,000 on a new health and fitness centre.

A new gym area was built on two old squash courts in Dudley three years ago, costing £500,000. And another £500,000 was spent on the swimming pool, including new tiling and lights.

Councillor David Stanley said: "Our facilities are very competitive with the private sector and I think that is one of the main reasons why we have seen such an increase."

"We decided a few years ago that to really improve health and wellbeing we had to invest in equipment and facilities and now this is paying off."

Vicar moves in to eco home

A vicar in the Black Country is set to move into his new home – an eco vicarage – which is the first of its kind in the country.

The house in Kingswinford will generate its own electricity saving thousands of pounds in energy bills every year.

It has been made from low carbon materials such as recycled aggregate concrete blocks for the walls and slate tiles for the roof.

Solar panels have been fitted to the roof and a rain-water collection system will collect water for the toilets and outdoor taps.

The new vicarage, which has cost around £500,000 to build, is one of two being built by the Diocese of Worcester – the other is in Redditch. It will cost £100 a year to heat the property compared with an average of £3,000 a year for the old vicarage.

Statement

The Rev Dr Giles Kendall, vicar at St Mary's in Kingswinford, was given the keys to the property in Penzer Street last week.

The father of three, aged 53, who lives with wife Kate, said: "I am excited to be part of a bold statement by the church which has commissioned the building of one of the greenest houses in Europe. It is an example that I hope other institutions and businesses will feel challenged to copy."

Diocesan surveyor, Mark Wild said: "Putting environmental concerns at the top of the priority list when building new vicarages really demonstrates our commitment to reducing our carbon footprint."

"These new houses are a positive



At the eco-vicarage in Kingswinford are Bill Cave of Speller Metcalfe, The Rev Giles Kendall and John Christophers of Associated Architects

step forward for house building in this country. We are building houses with the same ethos as the Victorians – we'd like them to be around forever."

The cost of building the new environmentally-friendly properties has been funded from the sale of existing houses, which were no longer viable as vicarages, both in terms of their layout and running costs.

The eco-vicarage meets both the UK's Code 6 for building sustainable homes and the German Passivhaus standard, which means the carbon generated during the manufacturing process and when the house is lived in is kept to a minimum.

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£70,000 flood scheme unveiled

A flood defence scheme to protect more than 50 homes in Bewdley has been unveiled.

Riddings Brook Flood Group has been battling for measures to protect the town's Queensway estate since the severe floods of 2007.

Homes have previously been at risk as Riddings Brook runs into a culvert beneath the Queensway estate which cannot cope with high volumes of water. But the Environment Agency has now created a £700,000 water storage embankment to temporarily retain large amounts of water in a field.

The water will be released slowly, reducing the amount running along

the culvert. The group was formed in 2007 after more than 50 homes were flooded in Riddings Close, Queensway and Kidderminster Road following storms. Residents vowed to do all they could to prevent a similar thing from happening again.

Flood group chairman Gill Holland said she was delighted the defences were now in place. "It is a very simple system but one which should be effective in preventing houses in this part of the town from being flooded," she said. "Four years is not a long time to wait for measures of this kind but we have continued to keep the pressure on to ensure the work took place."

The group was joined at the event by Wyre Forest MP Mark Garnier, Wyre Forest District Council leader Councillor John Campion and the area's former MP Dr Richard Taylor.

Mrs Holland said the group was very grateful to landowner Chris Grainger who had allowed part of his field to be used as the water storage area.

She said some minor works still needed completing but the defences were now in place.

Mr Garnier said: "Everyone involved has put in a lot of work, especially Gill Holland who has been leading residents' action against flooding in Bewdley."

Operator has licence revoked

A meat supplier in Dudley has had his operator's licence revoked after one of his vehicles was involved in a crash. Arshad Majid has been given the sanction following the smash on the A40 in Greater London.

Two of the lorry's wheels fell off and it flipped over in the accident last October. Both the driver and passenger were able to walk away.

Mr Majid, director of Asia Halal Meat Suppliers which employs about 15 people and has an operating centre in Ham Lane, Kingswinford, and a unit in Birmingham.

An investigation into the smash raised issues including the management of the fleet's tachographs and maintenance of lorries.

Mr Majid was called before deputy West Midlands traffic commissioner Roger Seymour in Birmingham but Mr Seymour's written decision has only just been released.

Although he found safety inspections were conducted "with a degree of regularity", he said Mr Majid had no commitment to fulfilling the obligations.

Memorial bench set up at hospice

A memorial bench has been set up in the gardens of a Black Country hospice in memory of a former member of the Kingswinford and Stourbridge Lions Club.

Grandfather and former insurance worker Bill Masters, who was a member of the group for more than nine years, passed away in November 2010 at the age of 78 from pneumonia.

The voluntary service organisation, which raises funds for good causes, tries to honour all members who have died.

It was decided that an engraved bench at the Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge was the best way to remember Mr Masters, who was from Oldswinford.

Friend and lions club member Maureen Whitmore said: "Whenever we lose any Lions member we always try and do something in memory of them. The Lions are very pleased with the bench, it is in a beautiful spot."

He really enjoyed the sun and he would have loved to have sat out on it."



Members of the Lions club are joined by the Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Michael Evans, and the Mayor's Consort, Councillor Sue Greenaway, to unveil the bench dedicated to the memory of Lions member Bill Masters

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Dozens of attacks on region's posties

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Several postmen and women have been assaulted by the public as they made their rounds across the Midlands in the past four years, new figures show.

Violent attacks had become a "hazard" of the job for postal staff as they made their deliveries, according to bosses at Royal Mail.

Around 67 workers have been assaulted across the Black Country, Staffordshire, Wyre Forest and Birmingham since 2007.

The highest number of assaults happened in Sandwell and Birmingham, according to figures released through a Freedom of Information request.

Royal Mail condemned the attacks and vowed to help police catch those responsible. Spokesman Richard Hall said the safety of staff was a top priority. "Royal Mail deplores any attack on its employees who are there to serve the community," he added.

"Whilst rare, unfortunately attacks are a hazard faced by our postmen and women and our first priority as an employer is to ensure the welfare and safety of our people."

Customers

The figures show that in Sandwell and Birmingham during 2007/08 there were 13 attacks, with 11 in 2008/09, rising to 17 two years ago and 14 recorded against postmen and women last year while they were out doing their jobs. They also reveal there were eight assaults by customers on staff in total in Wolverhampton, Dudley and Wyre Forest during the course of the four years.

There were three reported assaults in Walsall in the same period while Staffordshire only had a single attack on a postman or woman since 2007, according to the information released by Royal Mail.

Mr Hall added: "We always advise employees to avoid conflict with customers and report incidents to their line manager. Royal Mail takes any attack on its employees very seriously and will always report such instances to the police."

Figures released earlier this year showed hundreds of postmen and women have been attacked by dogs while on their mail rounds in the Midlands over the last few years. A total of 565 attacks were reported between 2008 and March this year.

In a number of the incidents, Royal Mail staff were bitten by a dog or left with cuts and bruises as a result of aggressive animals. They included 215 in the B postcode which covers Birmingham and Sandwell, 63 in the Dudley and Kidderminster postcode area, 149 in the ST postcode in Stafford and Stoke-on-Trent, 69 in the WS area of Cannock and Walsall, and 69 in the WV postcode, in Wolverhampton.

Ramp at war memorial



Councillor Mary Docker, who fought for the ramp, with her granddaughter Ruby Field, aged five, and Wayne Parkes, of Blackheath's Royal British Legion

A ramp for the disabled has been fitted to a war memorial in the Black Country as part of £2,000 improvement works.

Sandwell Council has paid for the ramp by the cenotaph in Powke Lane Cemetery in Rowley Regis, meaning wheelchair users can lay wreaths there for the first time.

Up to now, people with mobility difficulties have had to wait at the bottom of steps and get someone to lay wreaths for them. The improvements include a hand rail that elderly

members can hold on to for support.

Welcoming the changes, Blackheath councillor Mary Docker said: "It's brilliant. I'm so pleased this has been done in time for Remembrance Day."

Blackheath's Royal British Legion has been calling for the changes for months. The steel and wooden construction will be up until November 14 and will then be taken down. The plan is to reinstall it on the run up to Remembrance Day every year.

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ServiceMaster in Dudley is celebrating its 30th anniversary of trading in the area. The Blowers Green-based business, which specialises in carpet and upholstery cleaning, has served the local area since it was set up by owner, Hugh Shephard-Walwyn, in 1981.

"I used my redundancy package from British Steel to buy the franchise for this area," recalls Hugh, who started the business as a one man band operating out of his own house in Birmingham. "We started off doing carpet cleaning and fire and flood damage restoration, but have steadily grown ever since and added more services."

The company now employs more than 80 staff, also providing daily office cleaning, one-off cleans and specialist floor care and maintenance. The firm is used by some of the largest employers in the area, including Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, Boss Design and Halesowen Motor House, along with many leading home insurers. Many businesses and private customers have used ServiceMaster for a number of years making it a well established part of the local business community.

The company puts much of its success down to its core of experienced staff. Hugh's former business partner Hilary Gibbs worked as office manager for over 20 years and the technical staff have more than 50 years experience behind them - which means there aren't many new situations they come across.

"On one occasion they even had to come to the rescue of a goldfish when a passing lorry's wheel crashed through a window of a Pedmore home, smashing the glass bowl all over the lounge. As the owner clutched the goldfish, the team cleared up the glass and found it a temporary new home!" recalls Hugh.

In February, ServiceMaster moved into new premises on the Thornleigh Trading Estate, where it has further expanded its services to include off site drying, restoration of flood damaged items and storage.

Charity Auction

To mark the 30 year milestone and the move to its new base, ServiceMaster held a charity auction on September 30th attended by many friends, customers and suppliers. The day was a great success raising £3,000 for Latin Link, a Christian organisation, working with underprivileged children in Peru, headed by local missionary Margaret Saunderson. She will be at Amblecote Christian Centre, Brettell Lane, on Sunday, November 20, at 10.30 am and 6 pm, to accept the cheque on the eve of her 30th anniversary of working in Lima.

Hugh says, "We are delighted with the response from our friends, customers and suppliers. This underlines the company's ethos to 'Honour God in all we do.' And I feel we've achieved this through our anniversary event."

With its new premises and 30 years experience behind it, Hugh is confident the company will flourish and grow over the next 30 years. "However, I might be ready to retire by the time our 60th anniversary comes around," says Hugh, who is a spritely 55!

Open event at museum

Dudley Museums Service is inviting local people to drop in for a "cuppa and chat" to say what they think of the way the area's treasures are showcased.

The event will take place at Broadfield House Glass Museum, Compton Road, Kingswinford, on November 23 from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

The free open morning will provide an opportunity to explore the museum and suggest ways the service can be improved, as well as tell staff what activities are of interest.

Dudley Councillor David Stanley, cabinet member for environment and culture, said: "This event is an opportunity to find out more in a friendly, informal environment and share your thoughts on the service."

The event is part of the Black Country Treasures project, a joint initiative between all four Black Country authorities and supported by Museums Libraries and Archives West Midlands.

A similar event is planned for Dudley Library in February 2012.

More details are available by calling 01384 815571 or going to www.dudley.gov.uk/museums.

Reports of pet dog theft near 100 for the region

Almost 100 dogs have been reported stolen in the Black Country and South Staffordshire in recent years, new figures claim.

Thieves have been targeting the animals, which can be worth thousands of pounds, and in some cases stealing them from people's gardens. New figures have been released by West Midlands Police under the Freedom of Information Act.

They show 75 pets have been reported stolen across the four Black Country boroughs of Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton between 2009 and June this year.

Statistics released by Staffordshire Police show there have been 18 reports of dogs being stolen in Cannock, Lichfield and Stafford between September 2009 and August this year.

In one case reported in September nine dogs were

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deceased dogs and their mother, worth £10,000 in total, were taken from their back garden in Tipton. They were later reunited with their owner although one of them died.

In another case in September a 16-week-old puppy was stolen by two men on a motorbike in an industrial estate in West Bromwich. He was also later returned after police released CCTV of the theft.

Difficult

The crimes can prove difficult for police to investigate in certain situations if it is not clear whether the dog has simply wandered off or been taken by someone.

West Midlands Police spokesman Lee Page said: "Although a dog can easily go astray of its own accord, if a person is sure their dog has been stolen it is treated as a theft and therefore a criminal investigation will take place." According to the figures for the West Midlands the most number of dog thefts have been reported in Dudley with 22.

Artists are put in the frame at club's 22nd annual exhibition

More than 130 new paintings are on show at Hagley Art Club's 22nd annual exhibition.

The event, at Hagley Community Centre in Worcester Road, was officially opened on Friday by Dudley Council's borough public artist Steve Field.

The exhibition will remain open from Friday, daily, until November 20 between 10am and 4pm.

As well as the display of paintings by club members, crafts and cards will be on sale, with ideas for possible Christmas presents.

The club, which has 85 members, meets on the second Friday of every month at St Saviour's Church, Hagley, and there is a painting circle that meets weekly at Churchill Village Hall, near Hagley.



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Pitch change leaves hockey club in Limbo

A hockey club which is almost 120 years old may be forced to close after being booted off its pitch to make way for football and rugby teams instead.

The whistle could be blown on Kidderminster Hockey Club after King Charles I School, where its members play home matches, won funding from the Football Association towards a £500,000 new pitch.

The FA insists the artificial grass "carpet" surface must be 65mm, which would be suitable for football or rugby but too long for hockey. The club has been told it will have to leave at the end of the hockey season in March.

Chairman Chris Longmore said: "We feel we've been stabbed in the back - we've been there for 25 years and some years ago paid

Dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

£20,000 to help refurbish the pitch. We are now in the process of going round pitches in towns as far away as Halesowen and Bromsgrove to check on availability of pitches for the 2012-13 season - we either find somewhere else or will have to close down. And if we move to another town, fewer players will come back to our clubhouse afterwards and we will lose members."

Development

He added the only other hockey pitches in the Wyre Forest district were two at the home of Kidderminster's rival club, Stourport. And, although Wyre Forest Council was looking at creating a third pitch in the district, that development was at least 18 months away and the funding was not certain.

Tim Gulliver, head teacher of King Charles I School, said: "I do empathise and feel for Chris and Kidderminster Hockey Club. But football and rugby is what young people are interested in and very few of our youngsters play hockey."

"Our young people and the local community will gain far more benefit if we have a pitch for football and rugby. We'd love to meet Kidderminster Hockey Club's requirements but the FA needs a set surface."

The FA has offered to pay half the £500,000 cost of the new pitch, with the school finding the rest through fundraising, capital funding and grants.

Kidderminster Hockey Club, which was founded in 1892 and has its headquarters at Chester Road Sporting Club, where the town's cricket pitch is based, has three men's and one ladies' sides and around 60 members.



Chairman Chris Longmore outside King Charles I School

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Ex-soldier broke laptop in break-up

A former soldier smashed his ex-girlfriend's laptop, smashing it on her mother's front lawn and threw a brick through the window after a break-up.

Jack Sutton, aged 23, got drunk after breaking up with Lacey Barnes in April.

Sutton, who was honourably discharged, stormed over to her mother's house in Halesowen where Miss Barnes was staying. When she went out the back so she could go next door, he climbed on to the porch roof and got into the house through a window.

Miss Sati Ruck, prosecuting at Wolverhampton Crown Court, said Sutton took her laptop and left it on the front lawn, before returning minutes later and throwing it on the ground. He then threw a bottle and brick at the window. Miss Barnes's brother arrived and the two got involved in a confrontation before the police arrived and were forced to use CS gas to subdue him before they arrested him. Sutton of Siviters Close, Rowley Regis, admitted two counts of criminal damage, burglary of a dwelling, common assault and obstructing a police officer.

Mr Jas Mann, defending, said Sutton was drunk and "thoroughly ashamed" of his actions. He said he and Miss Barnes were back together and now expecting a baby, and he had pleaded guilty.

He was sentenced to a 24-month community order with 60 hours work, £200 compensation and £100 costs.

Sick horses tethered at nature reserve site

Dozens of horses are being kept tethered in a Black Country nature reserve with several suffering from a contagious disease.

The RSPCA and World Horse Welfare Society have now been called in to investigate horses being kept at Fens Pool Nature Reserve, Brierley Hill. The issue was raised at a meeting of the Brierley Hill Area Committee.

Resident Evelyn Bradley said she had called the animal charities after noticing an increasing number of horses on the land.

"Because of this, you can't enjoy the reserve as a public space," she told the meeting.

"There are also foals wandering around, which are getting quite aggressive."

She told the meeting charities had found many of the horses were malnourished, and were suffering from a disease called strangles, causing abscesses on the neck.

Dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Area liaison officer John Millar said the council was aware of the issues at Fens Pool. "It's a complicated situation as it's communal, council-owned land," he said. He said a special working group would be examining options available and report back to the environment scrutiny committee.

Concerns

RSPCA spokeswoman Judith Haw said they had removed four horses from the reserve due to "welfare concerns".

And she said notices had been put up warning that the horses had an infectious disease.

She said: "Strangles is a very infectious disease so these horses should not be moved, they should be treated at the scene. We are now in discussions with Dudley Council about how to deal with the problem further."



Some of the dozens of horses tethered around the Fens Pool nature reserve



One of the tethered horses is fed by group of walkers visiting the reserve

Chiana off to Crufts

A seven-month old puppy has fought back from serious illness to win a place at Crufts.

Chiana, a German Spitz Klein, has qualified for the utility section at the event in Birmingham next March.

She became ill after swallowing an acorn which lodged in her small intestine, and had to undergo a operation. She could not eat for days and was on a drip for nearly a week after the procedure.

But just six weeks later she came second in her class at the German Spitz Klein Club show in Coventry - which saw her sail through to Crufts. Her owner Wendy Wright, a vet's assistant of Rectory Street, Wordsley, said: "We could have lost her during the operation because she was so weak as she hadn't eaten for days I was amazed she recovered so quickly though and I was so proud of her."

"Within days of the stitches coming out she was running around like she was possessed."

Miss Wright's other dogs Witch, aged 10, and Lunar, five have also reached Crufts in the same category, having finished second and third respectively last year.

The dogs are all related, having come from the same breeder. The three pets' next challenge will come at the Ladies' Kennel Club show at Birmingham's NEC next month.



Wendy Wright with her puppy Chiana, who has secured a place at Crufts

Museum bid to secure funding

Plans for a glass museum to house the Black Country's precious collections have moved a step closer as a multi-million pound bid for funding is drawn up.

Half of the £5 million costs of the project are being sought from the European Regional Development Fund, with the site of the old Stuart Crystal glassworks in Wordsley being used. The funding bid is set to be submitted early next year.

The whole project was thrown into doubt earlier this year when arsonists gutted one of the Grade II-listed former factories. But now the site's owners have revealed that they are drawing up a final bid with the help of Dudley Council and glass charity the British Glass Foundation.

Council chiefs have previously warned that if the bid is rejected, it is unlikely that the museum scheme can go ahead. It is expected to take months for the bid to be processed but bosses say this is a positive step forward.

They have also been given confidence by the recent £4.5 million ERDF grant given to the Castle Hill regeneration project in Dudley.

Plans have been in the pipeline for four years for a £5 million glass museum on the site linked to the nearby Red House Glass Cone via an underground tunnel. It will house collections from across the Black Country including Broadfield House nearby. A housing estate development is also being planned for a neighbouring section of the site.

Fundraiser for hospice

A hospice in Stourbridge will be opening its doors later this month for a seasonal coffee morning.

Taking place at Mary Stevens Hospice on Hagley Road on November 19, visitors will get the opportunity to buy hospice Christmas cards and a limited edition calendar, as well as a selection of jams, chutneys and soft toys.

There will also be a jewellery stall, home-made cake stall and craft stall. The event is due to start at 10.30am and run until 1pm. Janet Jones, head of fundraising said: "The coffee morning will be a smaller event than in previous years when we have held a Christmas fair, as due to the vast numbers of people who have attended, the event has outgrown the space available in our day unit."

"A warm welcome is extended to those who wish to join us for a coffee and a chat."

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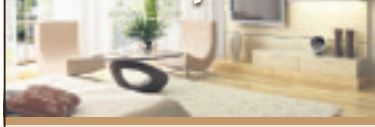
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Binmen could work four days

A four-day working week for binmen in Wyre Forest is now a step closer after a service review panel voted through the proposals.

Under plans to save £170,000, the panel recommended the council impose new work days of Tuesday to Friday instead of the current five-day week. Binmen would work the same hours, but in four longer shifts.

The panel also highlighted issues around medical waste and recommended they be brought in line with regular collections.

If approved by the district council,

the plans will be implemented by April.

Environment chief Councillor Marcus Hart said: "If the plans are agreed, residents will still have refuse collected one week and recycling the next, but some collection days will change," he explained.

"The review has also addressed anomalies which exist, such as medical collections. It found confusion and misunderstanding about the service, which is used by just 250 households.

"Medical collections are different

from clinical waste and the bin content is sent to landfill like normal refuse. We surveyed households using the service and 90 per cent of those who replied were satisfied with the proposed changes."

The council's cabinet will discuss the changes on November 22, with a vote for the full council on November 30.

Councillor Hart said controversial fortnightly collections, which cost almost £2 million to roll out, had saved taxpayers £300,000 in the past 12 months.

Free car parking at Christmas

Shoppers will be able to park for free in council-run car parks across Dudley in the run-up to Christmas.

Charges will be suspended on three Saturdays next month and on one evening to coincide with festive lights being switched on in the borough's towns.

Transport boss Councillor Patrick Harley said the move was a "gesture of goodwill" and it was hoped it would help to boost visitors numbers during the busy festive period.

It could end up costing Dudley Council £20,000 lost revenue but extra takings expected during the festive season could bring the shortfall down to £7,000.

The council is proposing free Saturday car parking on December 10, 17 and 24 in Dudley, Stourbridge, Brierley Hill and Halesowen, along with smaller centres such as Sedgley and Kingswinford.

The plans were welcomed by the chairman of Stourbridge Township Council, Margaret Scott, who said previous similar schemes had increased the number of shoppers.

Special celebration for anniversary

A primary school is celebrating 150 years since first opening its doors to children - and wants to hear from ex-pupils for a special celebration.

Upper Arley Primary School, near Bewdley, will mark the anniversary with a festive fair on December 3. Staff are urging former pupils to get in touch so they can send out invitations. It will give ex-students the chance to meet up with their old classmates while enjoying festive-themed events.

The school opened in 1861 and for much of its life was a first school attended by nine and 10-year-olds before they moved up to secondary school.

The fair will feature performances by the Discover History and Svartsland theatre groups who will be dressing up in period costume. There will also be stalls selling vintage clothing and jewellery.

A hog roast will be prepared by staff at the nearby Bellmans Cross Inn. Ex-pupils are asked to call 01299 861260.



Spencer Gregg, aged 10, headteacher Ian Smith and Erin Woodward, seven, get ready to celebrate the anniversary of Upper Arley Primary School



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COMPETITION

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Motor along to CS Live

CLOTHES Show Live, the UK's biggest fashion and beauty event, returns for its 23rd year with even more fashion, beauty and shopping than ever from December 2-7 at Birmingham's NEC.

With hundreds of leading fashion and beauty brands, non-stop catwalk shows, hair and beauty demonstrations, leading industry experts and the UK's favourite celebrities, it's the ultimate girls' day out. And what's more, you could be going for free!

Clothes Show Live in association with Suzuki has joined with the Chronicle series to give 27 readers the chance to win a pair of tickets to the show. Whether looking for the latest, cutting edge fashion; glamorous catwalk shows featuring not-yet-seen designer collections; the perfect opportunity to pamper and relax; and much much more - this year's Clothes Show Live is bigger and better than ever.

Celebrities

Benefit, GHD, Lipsy London Beauty, Lee Stafford and Eylure are among the well known and best loved fashion and beauty brands to shop from; while X Factor resident hairdresser Jamie Stephens, celebrity stylist Karl Willett and Clothes Show veteran Caryn Franklin will all be on hand to give demonstrations and their vital advice about the industry.

Don't miss the UK's favourite celebrities and musical icons including: Alexandra Burke; TOWIE's Lauren, Maria, Kirk, Joey, Arg and Harry; Her Majesty & The Wolves feat. Pussycat Doll Kimberly Wyatt; Jeff Brazier; girl band Parade and a host of Hollywood stars as they appear across the shows stages and bars including the Diet Coke Image Catwalk.

Catch stylish duo George Lamb and



Grace Woodward presenting in Clothes Show Live's famous Suzuki Fashion Theatre.

Here Clothes Show Live entwines fashion and music featuring performances from Her Majesty and the Wolves featuring Kimberly Wyatt in an original themed catwalk show. This year's theme is A Night At The Department Store and you can see more than 40 models and dancers perform an awe-inspiring spectacular in collections from top designers and find out what really happens when the lights go out in your favourite shops.

For more information, visit www.thenec.co.uk and for tickets, which start at just £27 (plus booking and transaction fees), go to www.theticketfactory.com.

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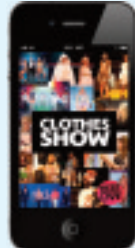
Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and contact number (only one entry per household) to Clothes Show Live competition, Chronicle series (editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: Tuesday, November 22. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final.

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Clothes Show has launched the new mobile phone app for iPhone and Android users: Clothes Show - Keep Fashion Live.

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It is free to download from the Clothes Show hub, clotheshow.com, or directly from the App Store for any iPhone users or the Android Marketplace for Android users. The Clothes Show App is what the fashion-pack are all lusting after this season - just search Clothes Show Live - Keep Fashion Live.



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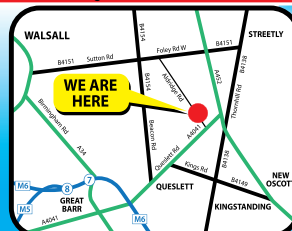
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LIZ honest, caring, genuine, widowed lady 70, enjoys gardening, music, socialising, holidays, seeks attractive male for relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 378787 §

JANE 40's, blonde blue eyed petite build, with ties, WLTm understanding tall, caring man for daytime meets. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375141 §

JOY very hot fun loving 35yr old American female over on regular business, looking for English gent for mutually convenient friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 378507 §

SUZANNA lonely beautiful classy French lady looking for happy decent reliable man for lots of TLC and good times. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375711 §

SARAH 38, slim, nice looking, tactile, no ties, WLTm kind, loving male to enjoy affectionate relationship. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 378483 §

DIVORCED female, attractive, OHAC, fed up with own company, looking to make life a little more exciting with likeminded man. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 372059 §

MAGGIE young at heart 40's female, single, sincere and honest seeks romance with likeminded male to enjoy weekends away and more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 379539 §

LISA 38 slim attractive blonde, looking for a man who will appreciate a feminine, fashionable, fun, romantic woman with a mind of her own. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 379537 §

PAULINE attractive petite nurse, loves evenings in/out, looking for honest male to share loving friendship and good times. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 379535 §

I'M attractive, very tactile with an hourglass figure, looking for fun and good times. Can you help? Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 368889 §

MANDY 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 360317 §

SHARON 32, attractive black single mum of one, very tactile and WLTm male 45-65yrs for fun meets. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 378565 §

CARLY beautiful slim brunette looking for naughty mature male 50-70yrs for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 376569 §

BETTY fuller figured black female, 26, body confident, affectionate, WLTm older chocolate loving male for daytime meets. Any status. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 377511 §

29YR old large black female, looking for much older male, up to 70yrs, for naughty friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 370017 §

RACHEL 38, slim, attractive, works full time, seeks sensitive, funny gent for friendship, companionship, hopefully relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 379929 §

VERY attractive 18yr old fitness instructor looking to burn some extra calories with older experienced male who thinks he can keep up, 30-60. ACA. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 364311 §

KIRSTY 36 attractive, blonde, seeking open-minded decent male for fun friendship, 40-60yrs. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 373013 §

ANNA 29yr old nurse, 6ft curvy auburn beauty, likes cosy nights in, genuinely seeking older, well built male to look after, 40-69yrs. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375139 §

HOME alone with no one to call my own! 38yr old naughty girl looking for fun. Can travel. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363277 §

SLIM attractive lady with long auburn hair just wants to have a good time with likeminded older guy up to 75yrs. Looks/status unimportant. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 368119 §

YOUNG looking attractive slim blonde, very lonely, WLTm nice guy for whatever life throws at us. No expectations. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 370111 §

DIVORCED very lonely single mum, young looking, slim, attractive, WLTm similar male for companionship. Age/looks/status unimportant. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 370023 §

JENNY blue eyed cuddly independent female, loves countryside, animals, cooking, WLTm older male to spoil and look after. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 378481 §

RACHEL 34, brown hair, blue eyes, slim, curvy, professional, likes cinema, walks, socialising, meals out, pubs, pool, seeks similar male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 262978

28YR old tall good looking and single, just looking for a bit of fun with spontaneous, open minded man. You won't be disappointed. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375137 §

STACY 28yr old gorgeous brunette with good figure, intelligent and WLTm genuine male to get to know for fun dates and more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 377509 §

FREYA 24yr old single mum, looking for male for free time frolics, call me if you're interested, it could be fun! Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 378985

FRANCES female, loves nights in/out, seeking uncomplicated male who can occupy my free time for quality companionship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 378981

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363428 §

MARILYN medium built blue eyed female, OHAC, employed, WLTm similar happy guy for fun together, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 378987

GLAMOROUS granny wanted, 60 plus by Steve, 54 for daytime fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 370841

58YR old male, seeks female, 25-50 for friendship, fun, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 379143 §

FUNNY unusual, caring, kind, unique me, snow on roof, David, seeks female, 20-50. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375831 §

men seeking women

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MALE 60, seeks female who needs a man for occasional evenings and weekend pleasure, any age/status. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 379873 §

54YR old divorced single dad, 5ft 8ins, N/S, medium build, car owner, GSOH, seeks female, 30-55. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 379599 §

TALL 30's guy, fun, cheeky, little extra padding, seeks open minded, slim, vivacious, curvy babe for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 339081

GENUINE male, 54, own home, seeks female, any age for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 368871 §

PETE nice guy 40, seeks older, slim, confident Liz McDonald type for fun, friendship, flirtation and more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 374605 §

JOHN 48, 5ft 10ins, warm, intelligent, hardworking, unconventional, unpretentious, seeks sensitive, intelligent lady. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 388412 §

PAUL 35, seeks female, medium build, attractive for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 374601

SIMON 45, single dad, likes weekend breaks, days out, cosy nights in, seeks N/S lady for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 377679 §

DAVID 54, 5ft 9ins, seeks female, 22-58 for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 374599

31YR old, slim, dark hair, friendly, many interests seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 352753 §

SINGLE dad, 45, honest, caring, brown eyes, likes holidays, football, swimming, walks, seeking special female, any age and looks. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 378219 §

PAUL young energetic 60yr old, seeks slim, attractive lady, 55-60 for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 376485

HAROLD 70yr old male, divorced, lonely, solvent, OHAC, seeking female for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 379759

54YR old divorced male, OHAC, seeks female under 50 for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 379729 §

LEE tall nice guy, late 30's, seeks fun, flirty, open-minded, forward, vivacious, slim, curvy babe for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 373481 §

JOHN 48, 5ft 10ins, warm, intelligent, hardworking, unconventional, unpretentious, seeks sensitive, intelligent lady. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 388412 §

PAUL 35, seeks female, medium build, attractive for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 374601

SIMON 45, single dad, likes weekend breaks, days out, cosy nights in, seeks N/S lady for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 377679 §

MALE 50, fit, friendly, down to earth, seeks female for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 372407

GEORGE lonely, retired businessman, 66, tall, own home, seeks slim female for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 379593 §

STEVE young looking, attractive 49yr old male, tall, blue eyes, loving, genuine, seeks honest, loving lady for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 387964 §

PAUL 49, N/S, slim, likes good things in life, seeks genuine, caring, honest lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 388436 §

LOVING caring 63yr old widower, seeks lady for caring relationship and to share the good things in life. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 379341 §

62YR old honest, caring gent, seeks female for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 357121

gay/friends seeking

BI-CURIOS male, 50, seeks well built, executive type male for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 379489 §

MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 311892 §

DAVE tall 54, seeks TV or feminine male for fun, any age/size. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 377853

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thechronicle

Slava's Snow Show, Birmingham Hippodrome
SEND in the clowns... Slava's Snow Show was the perfect antidote for a gloomy atmosphere of November darkness and economic woe, allowing the audience to escape to dreamland for a precious couple of hours.

The dream belongs to Slava Polunin, a leading Russian clown who has devised - though seldom now performs in - this spectacular, globetrotting show.

On its third visit to the Hippodrome, another member of Slava's collective of brilliant fools, Artem Zhimolokhov,

took the central role of Asisai, the little everyman clad in oversized yellow overalls who shuffles about in fluffy red slippers. Just by raising his eyebrows he won over the audience, who delighted in his antics, whether chugging around the stage in a steaming top hat, apparently shrinking at will, or, in a most magical scene, bringing a hat and coat on a stand to life.

This funny-sad character has a poignancy, the very first time we see Asisai he has a noose around his neck, and pulls on the rope only to find another clown in a noose at the other end. These Russian clowns have a dark current of fatalism.

At other times members of the audi-

REVIEWS

ence were doused in water or buried in confetti 'snow' by the troupe of mischievous mac-wearing clowns, who walked over the seats to bring their anarchy right into the auditorium.

The most memorable moments of the Snow Show are the three big set pieces; a cobweb that envelops the entire audience, an awesome indoor blizzard and audience members discovering their inner child when the theatre is turned into a giant ball pit.

No wonder Slava's unique show is so well loved... except, perhaps, by the cleaners who have to clear away all that 'snow'.

Leon Burakowski

Reginald D Hunter Birmingham Alexandra Theatre

MANY comedians use fleeting television appearances to offer bite size chunks of what to expect on their stand-up tours, hoping to flip a few tickets in the process.

Reginald D Hunter certainly isn't one of them.

As the American freely admits at the start of his performance, the cuddly TV persona is exactly that, with his stage 'act' a much more serious and deep-thinking affair.

Frequent appearances on Have I Got News For You and QI have brought Hunter national acclaim but it's on stage where his true personality comes out and the difference is refreshing.

The show certainly isn't for the faint-hearted, with no subject or swear word off limits. Reg's take on life, shaped by a combination of being brought up in America's Deep South followed by 15 years touring the UK comedy circuit, is charming and he quickly has the audience captivated.

Childhood stories, scientific theories, British racism and relationship advice are all approached with a unique slant.

The only downside would be that some gags don't quite come around quickly enough, with Reg's mantras occasionally too drawn out, although often when the punchlines came they were worth the wait.

Tim Spiers

Keeler, Grand Theatre

SHE was that naked bird on the chair - that's how Christine Keeler thought virtually everyone would remember her after the 1960s sex scandal which led to the resignation of a Government minister.

But after seeing Keeler at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre, I think what many of the audience will also remember is the superb performance by Paul Nicholas in the role of Stephen Ward.

Ward was a well-paid osteopath who was also addicted to a Bohemian lifestyle of picking up girls and visiting clubs and drug dens.

He was a society fixer who made it his business to provide powerful men with easy access to young girls.

Ward was 48 and Christine Keeler just 16 when he saw her dancing in a club. He befriended her and another dancer Mandy Rice-Davies and paid the rent on a flat for them.

His particular favourite for grooming was Christine.

Nicholas showed Ward's manipulative character and as producer/director as well, he managed to get across the total

Buddy, Birmingham

Alexandra Theatre

CAPTURING the feel of 1950s' America, Buddy at the Alex is a bio drama telling the story of Buddy Holly's rise to fame to his final legendary performance before his untimely death at the age of 23 in a plane crash.

This exciting nostalgic show has high energy dance routines, brilliant spot on costumes and an exceptionally talented cast of actor-instrumentalists who all give excellent performances.

A cardboard collage of 50s memorabilia is cleverly used and creates a serviceable

backdrop to the journey.

Singing almost identically to the great man, Roger Rowley delivers a phenomenal performance, dramatically as well as vocally.

His image and facial expressions, along with his exceptional vocals while beautifully recreating those thrilling little guitar solos, are superb.

The fun part of the show is provided by Melissa Keyes, whose over-the-top character is hilariously funny.

Rave On, That'll Be The Day, Peggy Sue and True Love Ways received loud cheers from the audience, who gave a much-deserved standing ovation.

Keeler, which includes full frontal nudity, runs until Saturday.

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Channel 5, 9.25pm

Robin Williams guest stars in the 200th episode. The story begins at a restaurant manager is following the instructions from a phone caller, forcing him to make certain demands on an employee, who later complains to the police. The manager then claims he was being ordered by a Detective Kilgore - who doesn't exist. Instead, the police suspect it's a pseudonym for audio engineer Merrick Flook, despite the fact he has an alibi for his whereabouts at the time. Eventually, Stabler and Benson think they have enough evidence to prosecute him, but Flook is found not guilty.

6.00 Breakfast 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30 Nigel Slater's Simple Suppers** 11.55 BBC News Regional News Weather. **12.00 Football Focus** 12.30 Match of the Day Live. **1.30 The Big Breakfast** 2.45 Sports. **3.00 A Question of Sport** (F) **3.30 Outside TV** (F) **6.00 The Impressions Show** with Cuchaw and Stephenson. (F) **6.30 Final Score** BBC News Regional News Weather. **8.55 Children in Need 2011 Highlights**.

6.55 Saturday Come Dine With Me Bruce Forsyth and Tessa Daly host this week's show live from Wembley Arena, where the eight remaining couples perform in front of 8,000 fans on Saturday's big grand-stand dance floor.

7.15 Sherlock The young warlock finds himself drawn to a distant village.

7.40 Comedy Ruth helps a woman come to terms with her husband's terminal illness, while Dylan and Sam enable a teenage mother to keep her baby. With Susan Hampshire and Michael Jayston.

7.50 The Hitman's Last Stand A body and a missing number.

10.00 BBC's Oliver Twist 10.20 **End of the Day** Including highlights of Swansea City's Manchester United National Lottery Update.

11.05 The Football League Show Highlights of today's games in the Championship, League One and League Two.

10.00 Weathernews 10.55 BBC News

6.00 Cbeebies 7.00 Cbeebies. **7.00 Conat** (F) **12.05 Film: The Story of Vernon and Irene Castle** (1936). Fast-paced drama, starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. **12.55 Film: The Sky Is the Limit** (1943). Musical romantic comedy, starring Fred Astaire and Joan Leslie. **3.05 Harry Potter: Best of British** (F) **3.30 Great British Food Festival** (F) **6.00 Flogit** (F) **6.55 Film: Seven Years in Tibet** (1997). Fast-paced drama, starring Brad Pitt.

7.00 Dr. Phil's Army Mainwaring sets his sights on Fraser's savings (F) **7.00 Double Agents: The Battle of Chancellorsville** Ben Madsen tells the story of British double agent Eddie Chapman, who integrated himself co-conspirator into Nazi Germany's operations he was awarded the Iron Cross (F)

7.00 The 100 Stephen Fry is joined by Piers Fennell, Dave Gorman and Lee Mack and regular panelist Alan Davies on an extended edition of the quiz with a difference.

7.55 Pina Aue Margyie spots an opportunity to meet the president.

10.25 Pina Aue Laura compromises one of Kate's CIA missions in Burma.

11.05 Sherlock The efforts of a group of dwarfs trying to get into the entertainment business.

12.05 Film: The Station Agent (2003). Comedy drama, starring Peter Dinklage, Patricia Clarkson and Bobby Cannavale. **1.30 Later with Jools Holland** - The Sound of 2011. **2.30 Close**.

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV **7.15 CITV** **8.55 Coronation Street** **11.55 This Morning** Saturday. **12.35 ITV News: Weather** **12.55 Film: Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure** (1989). Comedy, starring Alex Winter, Freddie and Alex Winter. **2.30 Film: Free Willy 3: The Rescue** (1997). Family adventure, starring Jason James Richter. **6.05 Film: Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium** (2007). Fantasy comedy, starring Dustin Hoffman. **8.30 Regional Programme**.

6.00 ITV News: Weekend **6.15 The Chase** Comedian John Thompson, broadcaster Carol Vorderman, actress Sue Cleaver and TV presenter Paul Foad play their wits against quiz genius the Chaser in a bid to win a charity cash prize.

7.15 How Not to Be a Housewife Featuring married misfits.

7.55 Henry's TV Shop A comic review of the week's small-screen highlights.

8.15 The J. Edgar With the final just three weeks away the premiere is on for the remaining actors to provide their best performance yet in the seventh live studio round. Hosted by Dermot O'Leary. The results can be seen tomorrow at 8pm.

8.30 Fun in a Cemetery The Off of Heral Highlights from the jungle.

8.30 ITV News: Weekend **8.55 Film: Deep Blue Sea** (1999). Thriller, starring Saffron Burrows.

12.00 The Cube (F) **1.35 The Zone** (TV News: Headlines) **3.00 Kojak** (F) **3.35 ITV Nightgreen** **5.30 ITV Morning News**.

6.05 Channel 4 Presents - Oscar Pistorius 'Black Runner' The Paralympic gold medalist explains his motivations. (F) **6.40 The Hobbit** (F) **6.55 The Film Show** (F) **7.00 Freeports on 4** (F) **7.25 Extreme Gating Series** **7.55 The Morning Line** **8.30 T4: Snatch** (F) **8.55 T4: Made in Chelsea** **10.30 T4: Inside GBTV** From Bedroom to Boardroom. **11.00 T4: The Saturday Album Chart Show Special** **11.30 T4: Freeze Festival 2011** **12.30 T4: The Big Bang Theory** (F) **1.30 T4: The Simpsons** (F) **1.55 Channel 4 Racing** **3.55 Come Dine with Me** (F) **6.55 Come Dine with Me** (F) **8.55 Come Dine with Me** (F) **11.55 Come Dine with Me** (F)

6.55 Jamie's Dream Kitchen Jamie Oliver visits a popular curry house in Leicester. (F)

7.55 Channel 4 News **7.55 Newsnight** **8.00 World War II: The Last Hours** A recreation of the Allies' arrival at the River Rhine. Last in the series.

9.00 FLEET: Kennedy (2009). Premiere. An actor/historian decodes a page of numbers revealing the dates of disasters and tries to prevent them happening. Thriller, starring Nicolas Cage.

11.55 FLEET: The Butterfly Effect (2003). Supernatural thriller, starring Ashton Kutcher.

1.30 Film: Paddy (1973). Drama, starring Dhirman Chatterjee. **3.30 Love Me Or Leave Me Alone** **3.35 Without a Trace** **6.55 St Elsewhere** (F) **8.55 Countdown** (F) **9.30 The Hobbit** (F)

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00 The Gadget Show** (F) **11.00 Highland Emergency** (F) **11.30 London: The Inside Story** (F) **11.55 Dangerous Drivers** (F) **12.00 Film: M.O.C.** (1974). Crime thriller, starring John Wayne. **3.00 S News: Weekend** **3.35 Film: Collateral** (2004). US Market. (1973). Western, starring John Wayne. **5.30 Film: The Scorchers** (1989). John Ford Western, starring John Wayne.

6.15 An Audience with Tina Turner Comedy and entertainment from comedy favourite Tina Turner, as she celebrates her long career in showbusiness with the help of an all-star audience. (F)

6.55 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit Benson and Stabler are drawn into a series of psychological games by an engineer with a history of authority. Hard-hitting drama, guest starring Robin Williams.

10.25 C2: Crime Scene Investigation A dismembered body is delivered in boxes to a charity shop, and as the team examines the pieces, clues are found in the victim's mouth. Guest starring singer Christina Milian. (F)

11.15 H.C.S. The team examines the body of a Marine. Thriller, starring Mark Harmon. (F)

12.15 SuperCinema **6.00 Great Artists** (F) **6.55 Divine Design** (F) **7.30 Country Secrets** (F) **8.00 Harriet Harbord** (F) **8.30 The Milkshake Show** (F) **8.55 Thomas & Friends** (F) **9.35 Peary the Pinguin** (F)

ITV2 **6.00 All Star Family Fortunes** **5.00 The Cube** **6.00 The Planets Family Fortunes** **6.25 Film: The Flintstone in Viva Rock Vegas** (2000). **8.15 Home** from Hall **8.15 Back to Back** **8.40 The Hot Desk** **9.00 The Xtra Factor** **10.00 The Comedy Central** **10.30 The Xtra Factor** **11.00 The Xtra Factor** **11.30 The Xtra Factor** **12.00 The Xtra Factor** **12.30 The Xtra Factor** **13.00 The Xtra Factor** **13.30 The Xtra Factor** **14.00 The Xtra Factor** **14.30 The Xtra Factor** **15.00 The Xtra Factor** **15.30 The Xtra Factor** **16.00 The Xtra Factor** **16.30 The Xtra Factor** **17.00 The Xtra Factor** **17.30 The Xtra Factor** **18.00 The Xtra Factor** **18.30 The Xtra Factor** **19.00 The Xtra Factor** **19.30 The Xtra Factor** **20.00 The Xtra Factor** **20.30 The Xtra Factor** **21.00 The Xtra Factor** **21.30 The Xtra Factor** **22.00 The Xtra Factor** **22.30 The Xtra Factor** **23.00 The Xtra Factor** **23.30 The Xtra Factor** **24.00 The Xtra Factor** 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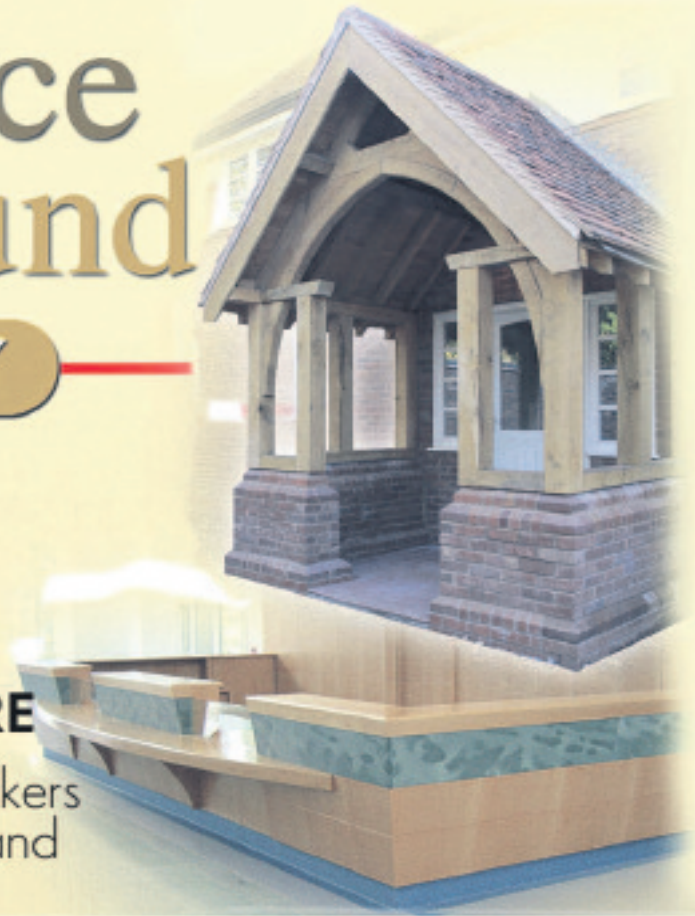
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Set in a very quiet cul-de-sac is this modern unfurnished detached home, briefly comprising of: Four Bedrooms, Master with En-Suite, Spacious Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen with White Goods, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Driveway and Garage Parking, Front Rear Gardens

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HALESOWEN, MAYFIELD ROAD

A rare opportunity to rent this lovely fully furnished mockow style semi-detached house with outside heated swimming pool (3ft-6ft deep) (empty during winter months) (Situated in the popular area of Halesowen) comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms, Lovely Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Driveway Parking, Garage, 12 MONTH LET ONLY

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A large and spacious bungalow with great views from the front, briefly comprises of: Two Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, House Bathroom and Tiled Garden. Driveway Parking, Part Furnished to Suit

£700 PCM



Within walking distance to Halesowen, is this three story town house. Well worth an inspection inside and set within a quiet cul-de-sac, comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Large Fitted Dining Kitchen, Very Large Lounge, Downstairs WC, House Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking for 2 Cars and Garage, Close to local Schools and College.

£650 PCM



A superb semi detached home, in the ever so popular area of Howley Grange, having undergone a refurbishment and being close to well sought after schools, comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Large Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, House Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Driveway and Garage Parking, Unfurnished

£650 PCM



Ideally located in Hurst Green, close to popular school, motorway access and commutable to Birmingham, is this lovely semi-detached home, briefly comprising of: Three Large Bedrooms, Two Spacious Reception Rooms, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom with Shower, Front and Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking and Garage

£650 PCM



HALESOWEN, WROXLEY HOUSE

Luxury Living In Hayley Green. A superb, ground floor apartment, comprising of: Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen with French Doors to Balcony, Two Double Bedrooms, Master with En-Suite, Further Well Appointed Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing and Allocated Parking.

£625 PCM



TIVDALE, REGENT ROAD

A lovely semi-detached family home with excellent disabled access and briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Downstairs WC and Wet Room. Further Family Bathroom with Separate Shower, Study, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Driveway Parking, Front and Rear Gardens

£600 PCM



HALESOWEN, MANSELL CLOSE

A beautifully presented semi detached family home briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms with the Main Bedroom Having Fitted Wardrobes, Spacious Living Room, Modern Dining Kitchen, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, House Bathroom with Shower, Gardens and 2 Allocated Parking Spaces.

£600 PCM



MERRY HILL, MADISON AVENUE

An Unfurnished modern three storey townhouse within walking distance to Merry Hill, briefly comprising of: Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs WC, Three Bedrooms, Master En Suite, Lounge and Dining Room/Study, Allocated Parking Space

£595 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, THRONE ROAD

Located on a commutable road into Birmingham and close to the M5 J2, is this well presented unfurnished semi-detached home, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Large Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, House Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front and Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking

£575 PCM



HALESOWEN, STOURDELL ROAD

This light and airy first floor apartment, situated a stones throw away from Halesowen town centre, briefly comprising of: Two Double Bedrooms, Large Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Large Patio and Small Gravelled Garden, Driveway Parking, Unfurnished

£575 PCM



HALESOWEN, BETHESDA GARDENS

Located on this new build estate is this modern ground floor apartment, coming unfurnished, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Modern Bathroom with Shower, Master with En-Suite, Fitted Kitchen with White Goods, Open Plan Spacious Lounge, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Allocated Parking, A Must View Property

£550 PCM



HALESOWEN, CLEAT VIEW ROAD

A very spacious semi-detached home has come on the market in a very popular location, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Large Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, House Bathroom, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front and Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished

£550 PCM



HALESOWEN, HARDEN MANOR COURT

This light and airy first floor apartment, situated a stones throw away from Halesowen town centre, briefly comprising of: Two Double Bedrooms, Large Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Warm Air Heating, Communal Gardens, Plenty of Parking, Unfurnished

£550 PCM



TIPTON, FERGUSON DRIVE

A lovely unfurnished modern second floor apartment, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, Bathroom with Shower, Two Allocated Parking Spaces, Internal Viewing Recommended

£475 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, KING STREET

A well presented top floor modern apartment, ideally located close to all local amenities and transport links, briefly comprising of: One Double Bedroom, Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, Bathroom with Shower, Allocated Parking

£450 PCM



HALESOWEN, WHITEHALL COURT

An unfurnished ground floor apartment in a sought after location, comprising of: One Double Bedroom, Large Living Room, Gas Central Heating Double Glazing, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Gardens and Carport to the Rear.

£425 PCM



DUDLEY, BEAN ROAD

A refurbished ground floor flat within easy reach of the town centre, briefly comprising of: Reception Hall with Minton Floor, Lounge, Double Bedroom, Fitted Kitchen, Shower Room, Double Glazing, and Communal Parking, Unfurnished

£380 PCM



HALESOWEN, WETHEREND LANE

On this popular development, is this unfurnished ground floor flat, briefly comprising of: Electric Storage Heating, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Garden, Garage

£380 PCM



HALESOWEN, WILTSHIRE DRIVE

A spacious unfurnished ground floor maisonette located within a Sought After Location, and close to Cradley Heath Train Station and local buses, briefly comprising of: Fitted Dining Kitchen, Living Room, Bathroom with Shower, One Double Bedroom, Parking Space.

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The top property guide for Dudley, Stourbridge, Halesowen and Kidderminster



Impressive – measuring 28ft 9in by 15ft 1in the generous sitting room has views to the extensive rear gardens



Taylor's is handling the sale of this four-bedroom detached bungalow known as The Paddock, Kidderminster

Stunning views from bungalow

Enjoying an enviable position behind a lengthy private drive, this four-bedroom detached bungalow in Kidderminster comes with a price guide of £565,000.

Agents say the The Paddock in Whitehill Road, of Sutton Park Road, has stunning views to notably well tended gardens and grounds, and beyond to countryside and farmland – and that internal viewing is a must.

The accommodation comprises an impressive reception hall, guest cloakroom with extensive white suite including low level wc, pedestal wash hand basin and tiled flooring.

Measuring 28ft 9in by 15ft 1in the generous sitting room has views to the extensive rear gardens from French style double opening doors, and a fireplace with gently raise and projecting hearth with space for a fire. Large

double opening doors lead to a formal dining room, again with French doors to the rear.

The kitchen – 14ft 6in by 11ft 9in – is fitted with a range of Old English cream cupboard fronted units, dishwasher, black granite work surfaces shaped to an enamelled sink and a half with mixer tap.

There is space for a range-style cooker, with concealed cooker hood over within a shapely canopy, and at eye level a good range of wall mounted cupboards.

Utility

To one side are tall storage cupboards, together with an integrated fridge with separate freezer compartment – as well as space for dining.

A utility room is furnished to complement the kitchen, with space and plumbing for automatic washing machine, as well as black granite work surface, with a door to a storage cupboard/pantry.

The principal bedroom has a luxury

en-suite with spa-style bath with overhead shower, WC and pedestal wash hand basin.

There are three more bedrooms and a main bathroom with white four-piece suite of panelled bath, corner shower, low level wc and wash hand basin.

Outside the drive leads to wrought iron double opening automatically controlled gates and extensive and lengthy block paved drive with raised established borders on either side before the double garage.

The rear gardens have a broad patio sun terrace and an extensive lawned shaped garden with maturing borders and views to the countryside. To the side of the property lawned gardens soncine, with borders.

An adjoining paddock, approached off Bewdley Hill, and of around one and three quarter acres, is available through separate negotiation.

Contact Taylors on 01384 395555 for more information.

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Willetts Drive, Halesowen



Offers Over £105,000 **NEW**

Two bedroom modern semi detached property with no upward chain, lounge, kitchen, first floor bathroom, driveway and rear garden.

Lydate Road, Halesowen



Offers Over £125,000 **REDUCED**

Two bedroom end terrace property, lounge, dining room, kitchen, first floor shower room, double glazing and central heating, parking and rear garden.

Canterbury Close, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £55,000 **REDUCED**

A second floor flat comprising parking, security intercom entrance door, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom.

Howley Grange Road, Halesowen



Offers Over £225,000 **REDUCED**

An extended traditional three bedroom semi detached house, entrance hall, lounge, conservatory, dining room, kitchen, utility, downstairs wc, 1st floor bathroom, garage, driveway, established rear garden, central heating and double glazing (both where specified) No upward chain, Open to offers!

Hawne Lane, Halesowen



£330,000 **NEW**

Five bedroom detached property, dining room, lounge, kitchen, wc, en-suite, loft room used as office, driveway, garage and rear garden.

Stanford Drive, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £130,000 **NEW INSTRUCTION**

Three bedroom semi detached property, lounge, kitchen, conservatory, bathroom, garage, driveway, rear garden, double glazing and central heating.

Cromwell Close, Rowley Regis



£110,000 **NEW INSTRUCTION**

A three bedroom semi detached property, two reception rooms, kitchen, rear garden, double glazing and central heating. No upward chain.

Victoria Gardens, Cradley Heath



£110,000 **NEW**

Two bedroom modern mid terrace property briefly comprising of a lounge, kitchen, first floor bathroom, allocated parking and rear garden.

Queens Drive, Rowley Regis



£200,000 **NEW**

A three bedroom detached bungalow with 2 reception rooms, entrance hallway, lounge, dining room, bathroom, kitchen, potential for loft conversion (subject to planning permission) garage, driveway + rear garden, double glazing + central heating (both where specified)

Hill Top Avenue, Halesowen



£100,000 **REDUCED**

Viewing recommended 2 Bedroom terraced property, entrance lobby, lounge, kitchen, downstairs wc, 1st floor modern bathroom + separate shower, double glazing + central heating (both)

Highland Road, Cradley Heath



Offers Over £80,000 **REDUCED**

Two bedroom end terrace property briefly comprising of a lounge, kitchen, first floor bathroom, driveway and rear garden.

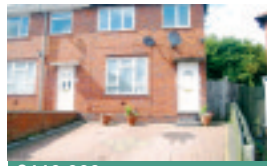
Highbury Avenue, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £200,000 **NEW**

Five bedroom detached property, lounge, dining room, extended kitchen, utility, wc, garage, first floor bathroom, rear garden, driveway and double glazing and central heating.

King Street, Halesowen



£110,000

Three bedroom end terrace property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen, utility room, downstairs wc, bathroom, rear garden and double glazing.

Chatsworth Road, Halesowen



Offers Over £150,000

Three bedroom semi detached property, lounge/diner, kitchen, first floor bathroom, central heating, double glazing, driveway, garage and rear garden, no upward chain.

Springfield Lane, Rowley Regis



£90,000

A Three Bedroom Three Storey Mid Terrace property which in brief comprises of hallway, wc, kitchen, lounge and bathroom. Front garden and carport to rear. The property also benefits from double glazing (where specified)

Winsford Close, Halesowen



Offers Over £180,000

★★Viewing Essential to appreciate the size of this Corner plot★★ 3 Bedroom semi detached property, Reception 1, L-Shaped Lounge, Study, Breakfast Kitchen, Downstairs bathroom, and 1st floor bathroom. Fabulous gardens to the rear/side + front, timber garage + driveway.

Talbot Street, Halesowen



Offers Over £90,000

Two bedroom terraced property, two reception rooms, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, dressing room, rear garden and benefiting from double glazing.

Highfield Road, Halesowen



Offers Over £110,000

Three bedroom semi detached property comprising lounge, kitchen, shower room, front and rear gardens, garage, central heating and double glazing

Frankley Avenue, Halesowen



£200,000

★★ NO UPWARD CHAIN ★★ 3 Bedroom traditional semi detached property, porch, hallway, lounge, kitchen/diner, utility area with separate wc, 1st floor bathroom and separate wc, driveway providing parking and garage, front and rear gardens, double glazing and central heating (both)

Westbourne Road, Halesowen



Offers Over £130,000

3 Bedroom semi detached property, no upward chain, porch, lounge/diner, conservatory, kitchen, 1st floor bathroom, double glazing + central heating (both where specified), rear

Albrighton Road, Halesowen



Offers Over £130,000

Three Bedroom semi detached property, kitchen, lounge, 1st floor bathroom, front and rear gardens double glazing and central heating (both where specified) No upward

Romsley Close, Halesowen



Offers Over £160,000

Modern three bedroom semi detached property, porch, hallway, modern kitchen, lounge/diner, 1st floor modern bathroom and shower, garage, block paved driveway, rear garden, central heating + double glazing (both where specified)

Shelton Lane, Halesowen



Offers Over £130,000

Three Bedroom semi detached property, lounge, open plan kitchen/diner, bathroom, rear garden and driveway, double glazing and central heating (both where specified)

Winchester Close, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £70,000

★★★ WOW THIS PROPERTY IS PRICED TO SELL ★★★ NO UPWARD CHAIN ★★★ Two Bedroom property, lounge, kitchen, 1st floor bathroom, double glazed (where specified) garden + allocated

Maple Road, Halesowen



Offers Over £105,000

A two bedroom terraced property comprising lounge, dining room, kitchen, first floor bathroom, rear garden, double glazing and central heating.



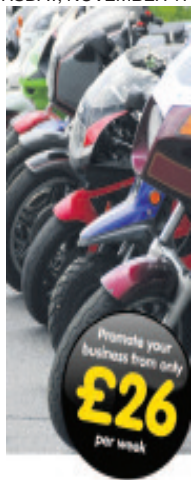
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Y	RENAULT MEGANE SCENIC 1.4 Met Red, PAS, EW, AC, 55k only, must view	£1999
56	RENAULT SCENIC 1.6 DYNAMIQUE Silver, Alloys, PAS, EW, AC, CD, 60K miles	SOLD
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55	VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.9 CDTI LIFE HATCH Alloys, PAS, EW, AC, Sat Nav	£3699
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51	BMW 325 Ti COMPACT 3-door, Met Blue, 1/2 Leather, Alloys, PAS, EW, AC	£3299
05	RENAULT LAGUNA 1.9 DCi 120BHP. Metallic Silver, PAS, EW, AC, Alloys	SOLD
54	VAUXHALL COMBI 1.7 DTi Van. White, Side Door, PAS, CL, must view	SOLD

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Push the button with this powerful Astra



A Sport and VXR button gives drivers the choice of damper, throttle and steering control stages

HOT on the heels of the recently launched GTC, this is the first official picture of the new Astra VXR, which goes on sale next year.

The vehicle is set to become one of the most powerful cars in its class and the fastest production Astra in Vauxhall's history.

Based on the GTC's platform and powered by a 2.0-litre turbocharged direct injection engine, the Astra VXR produces 280hp of power and a mighty 400Nm of torque, enough for it to achieve a top speed of 155mph.

But while the Astra VXR is based on the new GTC, it has benefited from a raft of bespoke chassis modifications, transforming it into a focused, high-performance coupe. Setting it apart from all other current Astras is a specially devel-

oped mechanical limited slip differential, which works on the front wheels. In conjunction with the GTC's sophisticated HiPerStrut (High Performance Strut), the LSD provides the Astra VXR with exceptional lateral grip and traction through bends.

Further changes to the chassis include brakes developed by competition supplier, Brembo, and standard fitment of Vauxhall's fully adaptive FlexRide system.

Throttle

In the Astra VXR, FlexRide features not only a Sport button, but a VXR button, offering drivers the choice of two, more focused stages of damper, throttle and steering control.

Much of the chassis sign-off was done at the

Northern Loop (Nordschleife) of the Nürburgring, and was overseen by Le Mans 24-hour race winner, "Smokin' Jo" Winkelhock. "We have devised a great package that will convince even the most experienced and enthusiastic drivers – and not just on the Nürburgring!" said Winkelhock.

Visual identifiers for the Astra GTC comprise a set of specially sculpted front and rear bumpers, side skirts, an aerodynamic roof spoiler and two exhaust tail pipes in a trapeze shape. Inside, the VXR's cabin gets bespoke performance seats with embossed logos in the backs, a flat-bottomed VXR steering wheel and upgraded instruments.

The UK is by far the Astra VXR's biggest market in Europe, so sales interest in the car is set to be strong. More details, including pricing and on-sale dates, will be revealed early next year.



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This offer is available to customers within the UK (excludes Channel Islands and Isle of Man). These offers cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. All prices and specifications are correct at the time of going to press. Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km): Alto-urban 51.4 (5.5), extra 74.3 (3.8), combined 64.2 (4.4). Official CO2 emissions 103g/km. Swift-urban 46.3 (6.1), extra 64.2 (34.4), combined 56.5 (5.0). Official CO2 emissions 18g/km. Offer expires 30/11/11. Alto SZ3 MMRP inc Metallic Paint £9925, Swift SZ3 MMRP inc Metallic Paint £12084.

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It's joy for Seat over used car sales surge



The Ibiza FR has proved highly popular in the used car market

RECORD sales statistics over the past year or so – including several record shares of the new car market – underline that SEAT's cars are connecting with British drivers like never before.

However, it's not just SEAT's new models that are flying off dealers' forecourts. The brand's used car sales are also running at record levels right now.

To the end of October SEAT's used car sales to the brand's 120-plus franchised dealers nationwide were more than 1,300 vehicles up on the same period in 2010.

Naturally, in turn, dealers' used car sales to the public are significantly up versus the same period in 2010, too. In fact, used SEAT sales at the brand's best-performing dealers are as much as 33 per cent up on 2010 as value-conscious buyers seek out the Spanish marque's mix of sporty style, generous equipment and impressive economy.

SEAT UK's used car sales manager, David Ardern, is understandably pleased by the significant rise in sales. He said: "SEAT's network of dealers across the country is hungry for late model, low mileage vehicles as it knows the buyers are

out there. Ibiza, Leon and Exeo are all doing exceptionally well in the used market, while our various Ecomotive-branded cars continue to interest buyers who value miles per gallon as highly as they do miles per hour."

Broadly strong residual values across the range help, of course, with used car buyers happy to invest in a SEAT confident in the knowledge that it should hang on to a fair proportion of its value over time.

Difficult

But the spike in used car sales could also be the result of more new SEATs than ever before hitting the UK's roads – working as "oiling adverts" for the brand and raising awareness with drivers who want to stand out from the crowd in a stylish, reliable and eye-catching car.

David Ardern added: "Despite the difficult economic climate, demand for used SEATs has never been stronger."

"We are well-placed to fulfil it, of course, which means there's never been a better time to seek out the SEAT you've been promising yourself!"

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Model shown is New Cruze 2.0 VCDI LTZ Hatchback

Model shown is New Captiva 2.2 VCDI LTZ

Model shown is Spark 1.2 LT

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Vehicles shown are Spark 1.2 LT, New Cruze 2.0 VCDI LTZ Hatchback and Captiva 2.2 VCDI LTZ with metallic paint at an extra cost of £375 for Spark and £410 for Cruze and Captiva. Offer prices available on vehicles registered between 10th November 2011 and 30th November 2011, whilst stocks last. Available at participating Dealers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. Available on UK supplied vehicles. 5 year warranty up to 100,000 miles, expires whichever occurs first. This offer includes Chevrolet's standard Customer Care Commitment of a 2 year unlimited mileage manufacturer's warranty, and third year manufacturer's warranty with a 60,000 mile limitation. Years 4 and 5 are an insurance-backed warranty up to a maximum of 100,000 miles. The warranty excludes wear and tear and serviceable items and the vehicle has to be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedule. 5 year warranty is available on retail registrations only. Models shown in the thumbnails are not all UK specification and therefore not currently available in the UK. Vehicles currently available in the UK are Spark, Cruze, Orlando, Captiva and Corvette. For more information visit www.chevrolet.co.uk. Prices correct at time of press. Calls may be recorded and monitored for training purposes.

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Chevrolet range: Urban: 28.2 (10.0) - 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban: 44.1 (6.4) - 67.3 (4.2), Combined: 36.6 (7.7) - 55.4 (5.1). CO₂ emissions 203 - 119g/km.

Putting your mark on versatile Mini

BY OFFERING a huge range of style, comfort, convenience and technology options, MINI has always been ahead of the pack at encouraging owners to personalise their cars.

Now the British brand is taking this unique appeal and innovation to a new level of sophistication with the launch of a stunning collection of premium options, called MINI Yours.

MINI Yours is pure differentiation by design, a vast catalogue of exclusive and design-led exterior paints, tattoos, interior trims and upholstery that are completely new to MINI.

It will ensure a bespoke and truly stand-out result for every owner.

Walking into a MINI showroom, any customer can still personalise their purchase from the much-loved and comprehensive list of options.

MINI Yours operates at the next level, turning the fun of deciding how your car is finished into an art form.



Goodwood

Buyers can select a MINI limited edition such as the MINI Inspired by Goodwood, MINI Soho, Clubman Hampton or the recently announced London 2012 edition.

These have all now been integrated into the MINI Yours programme.

And for a genuinely bespoke design, customers can select as much or as little as they like from the extensive range of exclusive MINI Yours options.

MINI UK director Jochen Goller said: "The introduction of MINI Yours underlines MINI's reputation as the benchmark car brand in customisation."

The sheer number of options available through MINI Yours means customers can tailor-make their MINI using exclusive colours, designs and materials like never before, creating a MINI like no other on the road."

In addition, MINI will lend a helping hand to that process by creating a

Personalise your model with the new MINI Yours package

number of special MINI Yours packages. To celebrate the programme's UK launch, the first of these is the MINI Avenue.

The MINI Avenue package is available with either Highclass Grey or Laguna Green metallic paint.

Both feature an identical interior with an exclusive 'Soda' repeating design motif.

Leather

The car's standard spec includes Satellite Grey Soda Lounge leather with matching black floor mats and bi-colour Sport leather steering wheel with multi-function controls.

Soda mirror caps and special effect white bonnet stripes are included.

The vehicle runs on 17-inch twin-blade spoke alloy wheels.

The price of the exclusive MINI Avenue package is £4,880 on a MINI

One or One D, Hatch, Convertible or Clubman, which means a MINI One D Avenue would cost £19,360 on the road.

"The MINI Avenue package has a sophisticated, classy character," said Jochen Goller.

"In the future MINI Yours packages will include all sorts of characters; from performance-oriented and masculine designs to really distinctive standout styles."

"This will make finding two same MINIs on the road even harder!"

Tantalisingly, he hinted at even greater levels of MINI customisation in the future.

"MINI Yours is an exciting and innovative development for the brand, but it's just one more step on the journey. It's not the end."

"There is far more to come from MINI."



The Airdream features Citroën's panoramic Zenith windscreen and Stop & Start technology

Citroën dreams up its most efficient car yet

CITROËN has announced the introduction of its most CO₂ efficient conventionally powered model to date – the new C3 e-HDi 70 Airdream EGS VTR+.

With emissions of just 87g/km and combined cycle economy of 83.1mpg, this new version of the C3 supermini is now Citroën's most fuel and CO₂ efficient diesel powered car, ranking it amongst the very best in its class.

First displayed at the 2011 Frankfurt Motor Show in September, the highly specified e-HDi 70 Airdream EGS VTR+

is available to order from this month with an OTR MRAP of £15,290, complete with the C3's renowned panoramic Zenith windscreen.

The new model uses Citroën's innovative e-HDi micro-hybrid Stop & Start technology, combined with a refined and efficient 68hp HDi diesel engine, to deliver fuel economy of up to 88.3mpg in extra urban driving.

Jules Tilstone, Citroën UK's Marketing Director, said: "Citroën is committed to driving down the cost of motoring and this new model is a perfect example of that."

"With impressive fuel economy, low CO₂ emissions, a BIK rate at just 13 per cent, free VED and the benefit of no London Congestion Charge, this stylish model is a financially and environmentally attractive addition to the Citroën range."

"Underlining the brand's firm environmental commitment, a full 50 per cent of Citroën cars sold this year emit under 130g/km of CO₂."

"There has been a five-gram decrease in average CO₂ emissions for the European range as a whole," he added.

61 PLATE CITROËN MADNESS!!

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C4 1.6 Exclusive

RRP £20650 Our Price £14499 Saving £6151 (Nice Specification)

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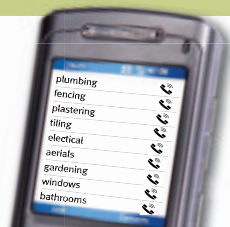
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sport

Stourbridge set to cash in on replay



Stourbridge players Lewis Solly, left, and Leon Broadhurst, right, celebrate after the game

Stourbridge Football Club is expecting a bumper cash boost – including a TV windfall – after the team's FA Cup heroics brought a money-spinning replay.

Officials say the cup run could raise thousands of pounds through ticket revenue, lucrative television rights and prize money.

The club kept their Cup adventure alive with a 3-3 draw away at Plymouth Argyle on Saturday.

The Glassboys have already pocketed £30,000 in prize money and could land a £67,500 TV windfall from the replay. The game is believed to be among the favourites for live TV coverage by ESPN.

Around 2,000 fans could pour into the War Memo-

rial Athletic ground for the match against Argyle next Tuesday night. Chairman Ian Pilkington said: "There is a lot to do over the next few days but we've already been making calls over the weekend to get started."

Club bosses admitted they may order new shirts for the replay after their specially-printed kits for Saturday's match had a missing 'L' leaving the word 'Stourbridge'.

And it was all cheers when the club landed a potential home tie against Football League opposition Stevenage if they get past Plymouth. Ticket details for the Plymouth replay were due to be announced this week.

Old Hales continue their good run of form



Chris Whiley

OHHC 1st XI 4 Sikh Union 0 (Coventry)

Old Halesonians 1st team continued their good form with a 4-0 victory over Sikh Union (Coventry). Both sides started the game steadily, but Old Halesonians soon tore the Sikh Union side apart.

A through ball was played to Ben Hughes in the D which forced the keeper to come and meet the ball, but his interception fell to Chris Whiley who found the net. Sikh Union held on until half time. In the second half, Hales dominated and soon won several penalty corners. A well-rehearsed corner saw Paul Harrold flick the ball towards the goal.

His shot, which was going wide, was deflected into the goal by a floundering defender. Hales soon made it 3-0 when Harry Hughes drew out the goalkeeper and slipped the ball to captain Doug Houghton who couldn't miss from a few yards out.

Once again, man of the match Curzon was on hand when the visitors thought they had grabbed a goal back. A diving goal line clearance won him his accolade, along with numerous solid tackles. Hales won another penalty corner towards the final moments, and gave the chance for Hales to put the game beyond the reach of the away side.

During the pre-corner discussion, first goal

scorer Whiley over-ruled the instructions of team manager Dave Butler, and informed drag flicker Paul Woodall to put it low into the corner. Woodall delivered and the ball hit the back of the goal for a 4-0 lead. Late on, Paul Harrold received a yellow card for dissent.

OHHC 3rd XI 5 Khalsa 0

Old Hales entertained Khalsa, sides which stood within three points of each other, but in reality, the fixture proved much easier as Hales recorded a comfortable victory.

The side saw a debut to Rich Waters, who was making his return to action from a month out, and James Davies made his first start of the season.

Old Hales started the brighter and it took just 15 minutes for Penn to break the deadlock after Butler found him in the D. From then on there was no going back – Damian Shackleton found the net twice, with Steve Butler and Matt Harrold also both putting their names on the score sheet.

Stratford 1 OHHC 4th XI 3

Old Halesonians 4th XI recorded a well-deserved victory away at Stratford. Goals from Phil Carter, Charles Palmer and John Mellor all ensured three points for the visiting Hales side.

OHHC 5th XI 2 Droitwich 2

The first half was a very even affair where possession. Both teams seemed comfortable in possession and were creating good opportunities, but Old Hales took the lead via a short corner.

Conor Reid was able to pick up the pieces following the initial shot from Ash Underhill and find the net. This was Reid's final contribution as he was forced off soon after with an ankle injury. Hales conceded two quick goals meaning the visitors went into half time with a 2-1 lead.

Hales dominated the second half, with the Droitwich goalkeeper making some exceptional saves. Old Hales continued pressure soon paid off, when Mike Link passed into the D where a deflection off Josh Thomas' stick fell to James Wakerley who finished terrifically into the bottom corner.

OHHC Ladies 2 Stourport 1

Old Halesonians Ladies saw off a Stourport side, as they continue to climb Division 2 of the Worcestershire League. Sarah Skidmore and Laura Bird both scored in the victory which now sees Hales fourth in the division. Hales face third-placed team Ludlow next week in a must-win fixture.

Close call sees Hales come away with victory

Camp Hill 34 Old Halesonians 36

Old Halesonians recorded another bonus point win away at Camp Hill sneaking through 36-34 to keep in touch with the league leaders.

Camp Hill took a 7-0 lead in the 9th minute through full back Ian Briggs who took advantage of a steal in the middle of the park to go through.

This seemed to galvanise Hales who retaliated with a well-worked backs' move passing through the hands for right wing Simon Sabel to score. This was followed with a try by flanker Tom Jordan.

Full back Chris Hooper converted both tries to take the visitors into a 7-14 lead.

Camp Hill kept themselves in the game with a penalty for 10-14. However, Hales reinforced their lead with a breakthrough from Captain Rich Taylor who managed to dot down despite the defending team's efforts.

The awkward conversion was missed and Hales made the mistake of thinking they could see the half out. Camp Hill Hooker Adam Willis was driven over for a converted try in first half injury time. The visitors went into half time 19-17 up.

Converted

Hales came flying out of the blocks in the second half with two early tries. The first from Hooper, who converted his own try, going through after showing an impressive turn of speed. The second from loose head prop Mark Head having come on as replacement for Thomas Dempsey who had certainly put in a shift at the coal face. This took Hales into a 31-17 lead.

The lead seemed to breed complacency in them, if they thought they had sealed the game they were sorely mistaken. The home side responded with two tries in three minutes midway through the half to move to within two points of Hales' lead.

Young Ollie Kealey managed a fine individual effort to again give breathing space to Hales, the conversion missed. Hales now had a 36-29 lead. Even now Camp Hill were not dead and buried with an interception try taking them within two points.

Thankfully for Hales the conversion was missed. "Skipper" Taylor acknowledged the efforts of both sides. "We are obviously pleased with our attacking performance after six tries but we cannot afford not to finish off sides when we get ahead."

Swimmers give a strong finish

National Arena League West Midlands Round 2, Worcester

Senior swimmers from Halesowen Swimming Club repeated the journey from the first round and travelled to Worcester for the second round of the National League on Saturday.

With international swimmers from other clubs making the outing, this was always going to be a very hard round and some of the times achieved by those swimmers were of the highest calibre. Halesowen swimmers put in a stirring performance but the team found themselves in 5th place at the half-way mark and were still four points away from 4th spot with eight events to go.

A strong finish was required which the swimmers duly delivered to finish the night in 4th place.

Individual wins were hard to come by on the night with Chloe Robbins in the backstroke and Jacob Darby in the breaststroke being the stars of the show.

Final points were City of Derby A 258, Long Eaton A 171, Wyre Forest 168, Halesowen 155, Leek 151, Gloucester City A 145.

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MISERY GOING ON AND ON FOR YELTZ

HALESOWEN TOWN 1 TIVERTON TOWN 2

HALESOWEN'S miserable run continued as they fell to a fourth straight defeat at the hands of lively Tiverton.

Harry Nodwell's 81st minute strike was the difference between the sides in a match which threatened to come alive at times but ultimately disappointed at The Grove.

The early exchanges gave a clue of what was to come with both defences very much on top, though the returning Michael Nardiello showed early intent firing a shot across the box.

Lee Chilton managed to get onto the end of an Anthony Bruce through-ball but ballooned his shot over the bar, indicative of a disjointed early period.

Things did improve, at least for Halesowen, as the match approached the half hour. Shaun Cunningham's three pronged attack paid dividends as Naveed Arshad fed Justin Nisbett on the right and his cross was turned in by Chilton.

Joseph Bushin looked to have claimed an equaliser for Tiverton a minute later, but the referee blew for an infringement. It was only brief reprieve for the Yeltz though as they soon gifted the visitors a goal when Brendan Kelly twice failed to clear from deep inside his own area and Josh Searle slotted home to make it 1-1.

Narrowly

Tiverton's Bushin was replaced by Jules Emati-Emati soon after and made an immediate impact, feeding Nardiello who was narrowly judged offside as he shot for goal.

Nardiello then tested home keeper Paul Evans from long range as the Devon side finished the half in the ascendancy. Emati-Emati continued to look sharp in the early stages of the second period, turning smartly but firing over from the left side of the area.

Chilton and Nisbett remained a threat for Halesowen and the former attempted a mazy run only to be thwarted on the edge of the area by some resolute defending.

Nisbett then came close to gaining the advantage when he capitalised on a weak back header by Paul Kendall but his attempt flew wide.

All eyes were on the referee in the 70th minute when he ruled out Peter Folkes' bundled effort for handball, while Kendall steered a header wide at the other end and Emati-Emati was again thwarted by Evans.

Arshad was replaced by Nathan Jackson as the Yeltz pushed for a winner but the decisive moment came just five minutes later.

Nodwell came off the bench to latch onto Searle's precise through ball, and his right footed shot left Evans helpless.

The hard working Nisbett robbed Tiverton captain Gardner but saw his effort deflected wide and when Kelly fired over from the resultant corner any chance of an equaliser disappeared.

Tromans on the mark for Hawks

GIRLS LEAGUE

Halas Hawks 2 Kewford Eagles 1

Halas Hawks U13 girls took the lead against Kewford Eagles through Louise Tromans. Kewford came more into the game as the half progressed resulting in the equaliser. The second half saw Kewford start the stronger but Halas began to create more chances and the winning goal finally arrived when Tromans slid the ball home from a cross.

Halas Hawks 4 Bridgnorth 1

The U15 girls were back to winning ways against Bridgnorth with two great goals from Elisha Rose followed by one each for Charis Maguire and Abbey Wingilale.

Warriors 7 Halas Hawks 2

The U16 girls failed to compete in the first half and by the break found themselves four down, but a spirited display saw them hit two in two minutes through Liz McAleenan and Lauren Taylor and although they kept the pressure on Warriors' goal

throughout the second half they were caught on the break, conceding three more. Player of the match was Katie Hickman.

Halas Hawks 1 Hasbury 5

Hasbury imposed on Halas and Siobhan Peplow's fierce shot beat the keeper for 1-0. Hasbury were then caught by a counter and Shannon Worsey in goal was left with no chance for 1-1. Just before half time Hasbury got what they deserved when Ellis Hall powered forward to shoot for 2-1. In the second half Ellis Hall crossed for Siobhan Peplow to tap in for 3-1, half then fired a fine shot to make it 4-1. Levi Cheadle hit the last one for 5-1.

BOYS LEAGUE

Halas Hawks 5 Kewford Eagles 2

The U12s took on Kewford Eagles, winning 5-2 with goals from Mohamed Yafai, George Raven, Adam Bowen, Nick Bennett and Joshua Horton. Man of the match was goalkeeper Shaddad Dael.

Colts fight back to take the win

Old Halesonians Colts 25 Stourbridge Colts 18

Old Hales started by making basic infringements and almost immediately Stourbridge were in front from a needless penalty.

The Halesonians' lineout was not working and Liam Kendrick clattered players away both in attack and defence, but it was not enough to stop a Stourbridge try. Hales fought back through a good charge by centre Adam Gillett the ensuing ruck saw an infringement which Billy Taylor coolly converted.

This started a good period of play for Old Hales and scrum-half George Eccles broke down the blind side. The

winger received a great pass from Eccles and Wilkinson sprinted for the line to score.

Taylor narrowly missed the conversion and the teams went in at half time with the score 8-8.

In the second half despite some abrasive tackling by Toby Barrett and Harry Hughes, they could not stop the visitors scoring a good try.

Old Hales lineout began to be effective which gave them some momentum and from the pressure Billy Taylor converted a penalty. Stourbridge drove back and some powerful running by their centre saw them drive over to score another good try.

Then Old Halesonians lost centre

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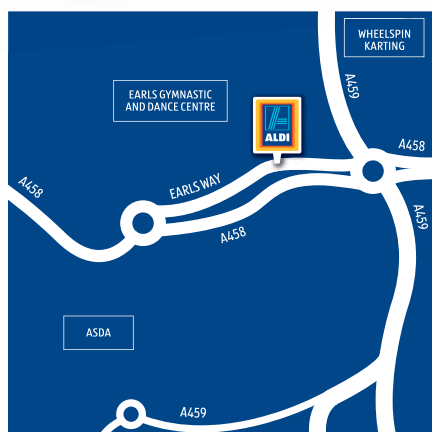
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